

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Reply, Applicant has canceled claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21 and 31-36. Thus, claims 1, 2, 8-10, 16-18 and 24-30 are pending in this Application and stand rejected. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and request reconsideration thereof in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 31-36 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (Office Action, ¶4). Applicant has canceled these claims mooted this rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 13 and 21 for lacking antecedent basis for “the thickness direction” (Office Action, ¶5). Applicant has amended these claims replacing this phrase with “a thickness direction” thereby fully addressing this rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claim 26 for lacking antecedent basis for “the edges of the front and back zipper profiles.” Applicant has amended claim 26 to remove “the” from the beginning of this phrase, and therefore, has fully addressed this rejection.

The remaining rejection of claim 31-36 have been mooted by the cancellation of these claims.

Accordingly, in view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected numerous claims identified in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Examiner has indicated claims 5, 13 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended the

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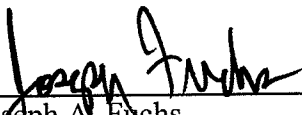
claims in accordance with this recommendation, and, therefore, Applicant submits all of the claims are now in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early notice of the same.

In the event that it is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3891.

Respectfully submitted,

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